

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-9, and 12-16 are pending in this application. Claims 17 and 18 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, in the interest of compact prosecution only, and not for any reasons of patentability. Reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Interview Summary:

The Applicants submit the following summary of the telephone interview that took place September 26, 2005 between the undersigned representative of the Applicants and the Examiner.

Telephone Interview:

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the many courtesies extended to the undersigned representative of the Applicant during the telephone interview that took place September 26, 2005.

Among the issues discussed during that interview were the above-listed amendments to the claims and the subsequent allowability of the subject application in view thereof. The Examiner indicated that claims 1, 4-9, and 12-16 were allowable, and requested that claims 17 and 18 be cancelled to place the application in condition for allowance. While not conceding the unpatentability of claims 17 and 18, the Applicants have made the amendments requested by the Examiner and believe the Application to now be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, in view of the reasons given above, it is submitted that all of claims 1, 4-9, and 12-16 are allowable over the cited references. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 09/818,503

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 140005

By:


Thomas E. McKiernan
Registration No. 37,889

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501